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AMERICAN FEDERATION OF LABOR

WEEKLY NEWS LETTER

The A. F. of L. Weekly News Letter will contain a brief summary of important matters affecting labor occurring in the industrial, legislative, and judicial fields, and such other information as will be of benefit to the labor union movement.

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CONGRATULATORY.

Washington, Sept. 13.—The British Trade Union Congress, recently assembled, has sent out a wireless message of congratulation and good will be forwarded to President Gompers. The message is in these words: "British Trade Union Congress heartily congratulates you upon recovery to health and return to business. Bonerman."

ARBITRARY AND UNTENABLE.

Detroit, Mich., Sept. 12.—Judge Alfred Murphy has just made his report to Gov. Ferris regarding his investigations as to conditions prevailing at the Calumet and other mining towns in that vicinity. He says, "The men have grievances that should be remedied. The employers insist on refusing in their individual discretion re-employment to any striker who has engaged in any violence, or who has 'incited thereto.' To agitate for improved conditions, to agitate for the right of employees to combine, to agitate for any legitimate end is the right of every man. To threaten the exercise of that right by refusing employment throughout the copper country to any striker is to threaten him and his family and that community practically without employment. It is wrong, fundamentally and wholly wrong in principle. Nothing else so much reminds me of it as the obtuse course of the Bourbons. It would give the strikers no chance to work in the position of sacrificing their fellows who have been loyal to a common cause. The position of the employers that withdrawal from membership in the Federation must be a condition precedent to re-employment is equally arbitrary and untenable. In principle, if any employer can do this, he can, with like propriety, compel withdrawal from any political, religious, or social belief as a condition of employment. It is basically un-American. In this tense situation, where peace should be sought earnestly and gently, it is a policy which set men's teeth, evoke in the strikers the spirit of loyalty and sacrifice, and make them ready to suffer desperate hardships before acknowledging any such right as the employer, by withdrawing conditions concerning wages, hours, and other considerations of labor, has attended by many considerations, and by different factors in different mines."

THE UNEXPECTED HAPPENED.

New York, Sept. 13.—Under the most favorable conditions as regards the settlement of the strike and the resumption of mining, officers of Lake Superior copper companies say that they will not be able to show much more than nine months of normal production in the current year. The progress so far made by the Calumet & Hecla organization in reopening a number of shafts and getting up to full production, and the fact that properties on the Michigan Peninsula are still virtually closed down. No secret is made by local directors of the companies affected that the strike has been prolonged to a much greater extent than they had expected. They had hoped that the appearance of militia would discourage disorder, and that many of the strikers and would continue those who were following the union leadership in labor wars for the past year would be to their best advantage to take back the places made for them. On June 15 and keep the situation in hand as far as the welfare of property was concerned, but their presence in Houghton county have stirred up considerable resentment against employers in quarters where it was not in especial evidence in the early days of the strike. If true, this state of mind has naturally added to the influence of the union leaders with many of the men in line. If the differences of employer and employe could be settled on further delay. It is figured that at least a month would be necessary to put the mines in their former state of efficiency. This is the view of the situation taken by Wall Street as reported in one of their papers.

HOURS LESS. WAGES MORE.

Minneapolis, Minn., Sept. 13.—Heat Fivet Insulators and Asbestos Workers' Local, No. 1, has just signed agreements with all firms of the twin cities, Minneapolis and St. Paul. The agreement is for the eight-hour day, and an increase of 5 to 10 cents an hour, and 45 cents per hour, beginning with September 1, 1913, and conditioned up to September 1, 1914, and 50 cents per hour from September 1, 1914, to September 1, 1915. Time and one-half for all overtime, and double time for all work performed on Sundays or legal holidays. No work shall be performed on Labor Day. Local No. 34 is 100 per cent organized. It only remained for the last shop to lay off four hours to get their demands. The other shops signed the agreement without any trouble. This agreement carries with it a clause for arbitration of all disputes between employers and workers during its life.

WANT BANKS TO PAY.

Hartford, Conn., Sept. 13.—Writs of sorie facias were served by Thomas Spellacy on shals on eight banks, demanding payment from garnisheed funds of the $75,000 trades-union judgment won by the U. D. E. Loewe & Sons, the scab hatters of Danbury, when they won their twelve-year struggle against the United Hatters of North America and the American Federation of Labor, which boycotted the well known hatters' boycott contest. The case, which has had two trials in this city and the United States courts, has twice been to the United States Supreme Court, is now before the United States District Court at Hartford, and the banks will appear the writs on the deposits of the union men, which have been drawing 4 per cent interest daily, until final adjudication in New York City next winter.

GOT RAISE BY ORGANIZING.

St. Thomas, Ont., Sept. 12.—The plumbers here who were formerly unorganized, made a demand for an increase, but because their employers agreed to meet the Board to grant the increase immediately, a little over a month after the formation of the Trades and Labor Council took the matter in hand and perfected an organization which secured the adjustment of the difficulty. The employers have now agreed to pay a scale of 35 cents per hour until November 1, when it will be further raised to 37½ cents per hour, this being the scale formerly demanded by the men.

MINERS' DEATH ROLL.

London, Sept. 13.—The report on the mines and quarries in the Newcastle district states that 214 fatal accidents resulted in 247 deaths, all but three fatalities except one case of a fall of ground and another case of pressure explosion of a shot, causing the loss of two lives in each case. Of the fatal accidents, 11 causing 12 deaths occurred in Cumberland; 35 causing 35 deaths, occurred in Durham (North), and 46 causing 48 deaths occurred in Northumberland.

WILL CONTINUE THE BATTLE.

Calumet, Mich., Sept. 12.—The soldier's still continue active in protecting the few scabs who are working. No serious clash or breaks have occurred since the killing of the young girl several days ago. At Kearsage mounted artillery scattered over the women pickets, riding down those who refused to move from the posts. Such pickets as these on duty were prevented from approaching strike-breakers either on their way to or from the mines. The militia and "deputies" are according the same treatment to pickets throughout the copper country. In spite of the efforts to discourage the strikers and depress them, they have on several occasions held very largely attended parades. The militia men are charged with being vigorously used the butts of their rifles on strikers at Larium when they attempted to interfere with the strike breakers. In order to discourage the strikers a story has been widely circulated through the press that orders have been given for woolen uniforms for 50,000 sweaters and gloves have also been ordered. The force of militia has been reduced to 500, and Gen. Abbey has announced that it will be maintained at that figure until a settlement of the strike is reached. Notwithstanding these preparations for a winter campaign on the part of the State, the men are by no means discouraged, as the contributions are coming in freely, and sufficient funds will be forthcoming by the end of October to tide out to keep the wolf from the door for the winter. The Western Mine Workers of Illinois have just deposited $100,000 to the credit of the leaders in the strike district.

INSIST ON DISCIPLINE.

Berlin, Sept. 13.—For the first time in the history of German Labor unions a meeting of leaders has decided against a strike undertaken by a local union and ordered the men to return to work. The case is that of the metal workers at the Siemens & Halske works in Berlin, who struck against the consent of their leaders. The leaders of the German Metal Workers' Union, therefore, met in Berlin to the number of about 150 to take action. It was generally supposed that they would be obliged, if only for the sake of preserving the esprit de corps of the organization, to support the strikers. On the contrary, by a vote of 126 to 18, they passed the following resolution: "The extraordinary general meeting of the German Metal Workers' Union declares, after hearing statements of the Executive Committee and of the members employed in the shipyards who left work without the consent of the Executive Committee, that this action is not compatible with the principles of trade union tactics and discipline. It condemns the procedure adopted by those members most emphatically, as it does not increase the calculable chances for the fighting strength of the union in face of the united action of the employers in the metal industry."

MORE WAGES: LESS HOURS.

Philadelphia, Sept. 13.—Some 15,000 men were benefited by increased wages and shorter hours when agreements which went into effect September 1. Those affected are the Carmen, Carpenters, Cement Workers, and Window Paperhangers. The Carmen received an increase of 1 cent an hour on the surface lines, making the wage scale 27 cents an hour for 28 cents and the maximum of 33 cents per hour. The Carpenters' new wage scale of the Brotherhood will run until January 1, 1915, when the wage will be increased to 57½ cents. On June 1, 1914, additional advance will go into effect, bringing the wage up to 60 cents an hour. A total of 1,000 carpenters will be benefited by this increase. Cement Finishers' Union has succeeded in securing increases in the agreement which will give an eight-hour day and 50 cents per hour. The Painters' wage rate has been advanced 5 cents per hour, making it $4 per a day, five days in the week, with four hours on Saturday, making a total of forty-four hours a week.

LEVY'S ACTION EXPLAINED.

Washington, D. C., Sept. 12.—David Lamar, known as the "Wolf of Wall Street," appeared before the House lobby investigating committee and asked the privilege of giving testimony explaining the purpose Representative Levy had in introducing the resolution last week for the withdrawal of all claims by the government against the United States Steel Corporation. The committee agreed to take Lamar's request under consideration. He said the Levy resolution "will have the effect of forcing the right of the government to collect $25,000,000 from the Steel Trust," that sum being the amount that the government will probably be able to asses, should its suit be successful.

PROMISING INNOVATION.

Chicago, Ill., Sept. 13.—At the Illinois State Federation of Labor Convention, which will be held at Decatur, October 6 to 15, fraternal delegates from the surrounding States and also from the Engineers, Firemen, Conductors, and Trainmen Brotherhoods will be present. This movement is hoped to result in much good and eventually to bring into closer relations the interest of the workers represented, and also that it will probably result in other State bodies following a similar plan. The coming meeting will be the largest in the history of the State Federation; 500 delegates are expected to be present, which will make it a record-breaking meeting.

NUMBER OVER A MILLION.

London, Sept. 13.—The International Transport Workers' Congress, which held its sessions at Caxton Hall, Westminster, was composed of delegates from England, Belgium, Holland, Germany, Switzerland, and Italy, and represented over a million workers. Herr O. Schumann presided. The chairman stated that since the movement started their power had increased tremendously, and they now numbered in their ranks considerably over a million workers. Every day they were learning to appreciate more the importance of international solidarity.

SECURED AN INCREASE.

Holyoke, Mass., Sept. 13.—The unrest and uncertainty of the week past in the case of the strikers and the employers has been adjusted and there will be no strike of the operators. The latter have agreed for an increase of from $18 to $20 a week and from $3 to $4 for Sundays. The manufacturers have agreed to the terms. International President Charles C. Shay was present in the city and assisted in bringing about the amicable settlement.

PAINTERS' LONDON STRIKE.

London, Sept. 12.—The strike of the Painters, which at one time threatened to involve a huge army of men in the trade, is now on the point of settlement. Many of the leading firms are reported to have conceded the men's demands and a joint meeting of representatives of employers and employes has bright hopes for a settlement in the near future.

STONE CUTTERS AMALGAMATE.

Indianapolis, Ind., Sept. 13.—General President Sam Griggs, of the Journeymen Stone Cutters' Association, declares: "After endless striving for the last thirteen years at the cost of thousands of dollars against a dual organization, which has been maintained by the employers, for the purpose of keeping the stone cutters divided, an agreement has at last been reached. Officers of the Journeymen Stone Cutters' Association have succeeded in wiping out of existence entirely this dual body, which has caused untold hardships to be endured by the members of the legitimate organization of stone cutters, chartered by the American Federation of Labor. This elimination is the result of an agreement entered into with the employers, who formerly employed members of the dual organization, and is to the effect that they will turn over all of their shops to our Association and in the future will employ only members of the Journeymen Stone Cutters' Association, and it is further agreed that all members of the independent union, about 2,000, will be admitted as members of our Association on the payment of a stated initiation fee. This agreement and the consequent elimination of the independent union practically assures our Association 100 per cent of organization throughout the United States and Canada. It will also make possible the organization of the entire country by the workers (it is unorganized today) under the banner of the Journeymen Stone Cutters' Association of America, affiliated with the American Federation of Labor.

LABORS' DIVIDEND IN PEACE.

New York, Sept. 13.—Most people have probably forgotten that the railroads are still trying to forestall, or at least minimize, a wage advance demanded by the conductors and trainmen on the fifty-Eastern roads. The board of arbitration named by the companies and the labor unions has not been sitting through the summer, but will meet soon for examination. The tendency in recent years has been for the wages to increase and more of the revenues of the railroads. In 1902 wages consumed 38.9 cents out of every dollar paid in, as against in the 1912 labor got 43.9 cents. In the ten years following 1902 the total operating revenues of the railroads of the country increased 64.6 per cent, while operating costs increased 75.5 per cent, and wages 81.9 per cent. If this trend would be finally absorb the entire margin of profit left after paying fixed charges. Any increase in rates or wholesale reductions in the number of men engaged in the transportation business.

PEACEFUL ENDING SOUGHT.

Chicago, Sept. 12.—Steps toward peaceful adjustment of differences between the Burlington System and its trainmen and conductors, which have been on record at a meeting of representatives of both sides of the controversy before W. L. Chambers, United States Commissioner of Mediation. Ninety-eight propositions concerning working conditions primarily, and secondarily concerning rates of pay, are at issue between the company and the men. The difficulty has been the subject of conferences between the parties for six months. Mr. Chambers came to Chicago at the invitation of both parties. The representatives of the men are headed by Mr. Lee, president of the Order of Railway Conductors, and W. C. Turner, president of the Brotherhood of Railroad Trainmen. The company is represented by H. E. Byram, vice-president; P. B. Morrisey, assistant to the vice-president, and E. P. Bracken, general manager.

CHARGE 8-HOUR LAW VIOLATION

Washington, Sept. 13.—At a recent meeting of the Central Labor Union of this city charges were filed against several of the members of the Council, which, if sustained, are flagrant violations of the eight-hour law. The charges were brought by a representative of the Machinists' Union, who stated that he had in his possession data to prove the allegations made. It is said that in one department a high official has letting contracts to private firms, whose employes work nine hours a day. The price stipulated was about double that for which the work could be done in government shops. A committee was appointed to act with representatives of the American Federation of Labor to investigate the charges, and the matter of violation of the law is established prosecutions will probably follow.

RETURNED TO WORK.

Boston, Mass., Sept. 12.—The striking workmen of the Merrimack plant, at which Gov. Foss owns the controlling interest, have returned to work under an agreement reached between the executive committee of the strikers and the superintendent of the works. The men employed at the Hamilton Woolen Company mills, not having received any proposition for an adjustment, continue on strike. The terms of the settlement have not been given out, but are said to be mutually satisfactory to the parties interested. The strike has been very bitterly fought, and the men have been out for a period of nearly fourteen weeks.

TEN SWEAT SHOPS CLOSED.

Philadelphia, Sept. 12.—So deplorable were the sanitary conditions found in the ten sweat shops in this city by the representatives of the State Department of Labor that they were ordered closed until the shops were put in healthful condition. They will not be permitted in any of these places until the law is complied with. The reports of the State department show that in more than 25 per cent are up to the standard required by the laws of the State. A number of the shops are now being carried on to correct the evils which have existed for years past.

ROASTED BY MOLTEN METAL.

New Castle, Pa., Sept. 12.—At the Red Jacket furnace of the Carnegie Steel Company and the Atlantic furnace of the Republic Iron & Steel Company, a molten iron burst through the base of a stack at each, killing one man and injuring another to death. At the Red Jacket furnace Samuel Hanna was so burned by molten metal that his body was hardly recognizable. George Mindell was burned severely, but probably will recover. At the Atlantic furnace Joe Fitzak was burned to death, while Stephen Fabine was burned severely.

CARPENTERS STILL GROWING.

Indianapolis, Ind., Sept. 12.—Secretary Frank Duffy, of the United Carpenters and Joiners of America, reports the organization of new unions organized during the month of August as follows: Logan, W. Va.; Galveston, Tex.; Victoria, Tex.; Hampton, Va.; Newport News, Va.; Jacksonville, Fla.; Quakertown, Pa.; Aimack, Porto Rico; Greenwood, S. C.; Central Valley, N. Y.; Detroit, Mich.; Stockton, Cal.; Oakland, Cal.; San Francisco, Cal., two new unions; Woodstock, Ontario, Canada.

LESS HOURS—MORE WAGES

Rochester, N. Y., Sept. 12.—President George Hendrick, of the Brotherhood of Painters, Decorators, and Paperhangers, in referring to the growth of the membership during the past year, said: "At our last convention we had a membership of 65,208, while at the close of July this year we had 81,632, an increase of 16,424. The above does not include members receiving clearance cards which have not been deposited, nor all of the honorary members in good standing. In the Dominion of Canada we have made a remarkable gain; at the last convention we had only 1,350 Canadian members, while at present we have 3,552, a gain of 2,197. The report of General Secretary-Treasurer J. C. Skemp shows that in the period from November 1909, to July 31, 1913, the expenditures have been $1,675,215.75, and that there was now a balance on hand of $154,644.22. During the period 464 locals unions were chartered and 296 lapsed or were consolidated." Referring to wages and hours, the secretary has this to say: "Of the 1,040 locals affiliated with the Brotherhood, 644, with a membership of 58,717, have reported their wages in 1909 and 1913 at present. The average wage in 1909 was $2.92. The average wage today is $3.45. The average gain on each of the 644 members of the 520 locals that report advances made during the period was 60 cents per day, or $150 each year on an average of 250 days, a total daily gain in all members affected of $37,511.80; a total gain for a year of 250 working days of $9,377,950. Of the locals reporting, 520 enjoy the eight-hour day; 106 work nine hours a day, and 18 work their locals the ten-hour day still prevails. One Hundred and twenty-seven locals with a membership of 7,000 have shortened their work day; ninety-nine of these have gained the eight-hour day since our last general assembly. The Saturday half-holiday is in vogue in 251 of the locals heard from, in 146 of which it has been established in the last four years. These shortening of the working day and of the working week have furnished employment for an additional 2,440 men. Industrial reductions in hours are equivalent to increases in wages, but in few instances have the full reductions been made; some sacrifices in wages to obtain them. Gratifying as these reports are, the actual gains are much greater. Many of the locals not reporting have gained increases in wages or reductions in hours during the four-year period." President Hendrick and Secretary Slemp were each re-elected by acclamation.

PAINTERS' VICTORY.

New York, Sept. 12.—Fifteen thousand members of paperhangers, members of the International Painters and Paperhangers' Union, who were on strike twelve days have returned to work, the strike having ended in a complete victory for them. Practically all of the men employed on the work involved by the employers at a conference between both sides. By the terms of the agreement, which will endure in the first week of September, 1914, the workers win a forty-four-hour workweek, a strictly closed shop, and $5.40 a day for paperhangers and 40 and 45 cents a roll for paperhangers, insurance of the worker by the employer against accident; the permission to have a delegate of the union in each of the buildings, dealing with pay, the first of May to be deemed a holiday; time and a half for overtime; the privilege of the union handling scaffolds and appurtenances, &c., by the employer; the employer while at work on the job to be subject to all the union regulations. This organization is not connected with the International Brotherhood of Painters, Decorators and Paperhangers of America, affiliated with the American Federation of Labor. It is composed largely of Hebrews from the East Side, who are engaged in repair work.

SHORTER HOURS; MORE WAGES.

Boston, Mass., Sept. 12.—The Electrical Fixture Workers' Union of this city presented a demand for an increase from 37½ cents per day and 44 hours per week. The previous wage was $4 per day and 44 hours per week, and $4.50 per hour for the remaining eight months. After a conference with the employers' Association it was reached granting a higher rate of wage and establishing a permanent 48-hour week.

INCREASED WAGES GRANTED.

Boston, Mass., Sept. 15.—The Molders employed by the firm of Davis & Farnum and the Wilbur Woodworking Company have been on strike since June 1, demanding an increase in wages and improved shop conditions. A settlement has just been reached whereby an increase of 25 cents per day over the previous wage has been granted, and the men have returned to work.

A HEALTHY INCREASE.

London, England, Sept. 12.—For the first time the Workers' and General Laborers' Union reports tremendous increases in membership. The figures are as follows: London, 8,293; Lancashire, 4,622; Leeds, 4,687; Birmingham, 4,017; Sheffield, 3,049; North Wales, 855; Bristol, 2,845; East Coast, 2,135, and Midlands, 1,089; total 35,376. With the increase in the Irish organization named the total membership is now 120,856.

ENFORCING THE LAW

New York, Sept. 15.—Eleven men were fined or given the alternative of prison sentence for smoking in factories by the Court of Special Sessions. Leonard Adelsman, a clothing manufacturer, pleaded to two charges. On one of smoking in the factory he paid a fine of $50 and a similar fine for having the doors of a workroom locked during business hours. Nine of the smokers were fined $20 each or thirty days in prison.

MINERS' RESCUE WORK.

Washington, Sept. 13.—On September 12, 13, and 14 there will be given, invaded by prominent mining men, surgeons of mining companies, and the miners connected with the mining industry, at which men from many parts of the United States. Western Pennsylvania and the Pittsburgh district in particular will be largely represented. H. M. Wilson, of the American Mine Safety Association, says that the reports received indicate the meeting will be very largely attended by men interested or in the safety of their mining operations. An interesting program of papers and discussions has been prepared. W. Paul, of the Bureau of Mines, reports that the arrangements for the mine rescue contest, which will be held at Arsenal Park on September 22, assures the success of this unusual event. Handsome prizes have been offered for the men who compete in showing their skill in rescue work and in recovery work at mines. There will be held a first-aid contest somewhat similar to those held under the Canadian members, while at present we have 2,552, a gain of 2,197. The report of General Secretary-Treasurer J. C. Skemp shows that in the period from November 1909, to July 31, 1913, the expenditures have been $1,675,215.75, and that there was now a balance on hand of $154,644.22. During the period 464 locals unions were chartered and 296 lapsed or were consolidated." Referring to wages and hours, the secretary has this to say: "Of the 1,040 locals affiliated with the Brotherhood, 644, with a membership of 58,717, have reported their wages in 1909 and 1913 at present. The average wage in 1909 was $2.92. The average wage today is $3.45. The average gain on each of the 644 members of the 520 locals that report advances made during the period was 60 cents per day, or $150 each year on an average of 250 days, a total daily gain in all members affected of $37,511.80; a total gain for a year of 250 working days of $9,377,950. Of the locals reporting, 520 enjoy the eight-hour day; 106 work nine hours a day, and 18 work their locals the ten-hour day still prevails. One Hundred and twenty-seven locals with a membership of 7,000 have shortened their work day; ninety-nine of these have gained the eight-hour day since our last general assembly. The Saturday half-holiday is in vogue in 251 of the locals heard from, in 146 of which it has been established in the last four years. These shortening of the working day and of the working week have furnished employment for an additional 2,440 men. Industrial reductions in hours are equivalent to increases in wages, but in few instances have the full reductions been made; some sacrifices in wages to obtain them. Gratifying as these reports are, the actual gains are much greater. Many of the locals not reporting have gained increases in wages or reductions in hours during the four-year period." President Hendrick and Secretary Slemp were each re-elected by acclamation.

AN INCREASE OF 2,000.

Pittsburgh, Sept. 12.—During the past two months a vigorous campaign has been carried on in the Mercer-Butler coal field by officials of the Miss Workers of District No. 5, this city. The result of the campaign of organization adds 2,000 to the membership of the Mercer-Butler coal field has been unorganized for years, and is a stronghold of the strength of the miners in that section. Contracts have been negotiated by the organization officials, and the agreements, all of which including the right to have check weighmen, the check-off system, and full recognition of the union.

FINED AND IMPRISONED.

Columbus, Sept. 13.—Two of the ten strikers of the Phillips Sheet and Tin Plate Company, Steubenville, who were recently summoned to appear before Judge Sater, of this city, on a contempt charge for violations of an injunction issued by the Common Pleas Court, were sentenced to imprisonment for sixty days and fined $50. The men have been removed to the Franklin county jail. Five of the remaining number were released on $500 bonds each, while two, bailed of by Judge Sater later. The restraining injunction was issued three weeks ago.

CUSTOM TAILORS STRIKE.

Newark, N. J., Sept. 13.—Some 350 journeymen employed in the custom tailoring establishments in this city are on strike for an increased wage of about 12 per cent and a 50-hour week, instead of the 60 hours the men have formerly compelled to work. The tailors strike is not considered a very formidable one, however, as it is expected that some of the bosses will make a settlement in a few days. Both men and women are affected by the strike.

WIN THEIR DEMANDS.

New York, Sept. 13.—The cigar makers of this city, numbering about 4,000, have demanded an increase of wages from 16 cents to 20 cents per thousand cigars, and a 48-hour week, and have resulted, lasting one week, the men winning the concessions asked, and the firm having agreed to deal strictly "union shop." All of the strikers will be taken back without discrimination.

LINE MEN STRIKE.

Indianapolis, Ind., Sept. 12.—A strike of the linemen on all the interurban line in Indiana, except the Wabash Valley is on and 200 men have left their work. The men demand recognition of the union, shorter hours and increased wages. It is declared by the leaders of the strike that about 100 men were at work.

WAS IT CRIMINAL NEGLIGENCE?

Steubenville, Ohio, Sept. 12.—One man was burned to death and two others probably fatally injured this afternoon by a gas explosion in a furnace at the Carnegie Steel Company's plant, at Mingo.

N. A. M. SPENT OVER $2,000,000.

Washington, Sept. 12.—D. L. Frawley, employed by the Senate lobby committee to investigate the National Association of Manufacturers, testified to the committee yesterday afternoon that between 1902 and 1912 the association paid $245,000 to Martin M. Mulhall for legislative and campaign work. The audit conducted by Mulhall's brother-in-law, Frawley reported. Accounts which Mulhall said had been destroyed by numbers on the association's books to hide the identity of some of those engaged in the legislative or campaign work were investigated by Frawley, who reported he could not find that the accounts ever had carried the names of the beneficiaries.

CALLS IT REVOLUTIONARY.

Madrid, Spain, Sept. 12.—Throughout Spain a strike of unprecedented magnitude is on and the Prime Minister has declared that it is a revolutionary movement, provoked by three or four agitators, a bold statement considering the miserable conditions of the Rio Tinto mine miners. As a matter of fact, at a meeting in the North, as many as 1,729 miners have voted for the strike and 1,725 against, while at one mine, at another, 8,349 were in favor of a fight and only 182 against the strike. The movement started among the 25,000 miners of the Huelva (Rio Tinto) district, and is being joined by 24,000 miners in Asturia, 14,000 in Vizcaya, 16,000 in Murcia, and 7,000 in Santander. Principal demands are for 50 per cent increase in wages, and the introduction of the principle of the minimum wage.

STRIKE CAUSED OIL FAMINE.

St. Petersburg, Sept. 13.—The Russian government has decided to invite the importation of large quantities of solid and liquid fuel to be admitted duty-free for a period of six months or a year, months on account of the prolonged strikes at Baku, which have produced a famine in the naphtha supply of Russia. It is estimated that some 10,000,000 has been lost as the result of the enforcement and stoppage of work at the oil wells and the auxiliary industries. The shortage of the naphtha output has compelled works and railways using liquid fuel to make preparations for going back to coal, while the extra demand has created for the latter is too great to be met by the output of Russian sources. Hence the action of the Imperial Council of Ministers in admitting fuel free of duty.

KNITTERS WIN THEIR STRIKE.

New York, Sept. 12.—After a strike last ing nearly three weeks the 1,800 knitters employed by the knitting manufacturers of this city have succeeded in musing a very satisfactory settlement, the members of whom will go to work. The agreement provides for the recognition of the union, and a fifty-two hour week until May, 1914, and from until January, 1915, fifty-one hours and fifty hours thereafter. Minimum wage scale and increase in wages ranging from 10 per cent to 20 per cent at that time to be decided by a price committee. There also calls for the formation of a permanent grievance committee to settle the trade troubles and a wage scale to settle price and piece work for a permanent board of arbitration to be composed of employers and members of the unions.

LARGE BENEFITS PAID.

Chicago, Sept. 12.—The three street car divisions of this city, in conjunction with the International Association, have paid approximately $50,000 in disability and funeral benefits from January 1 to July 31. Division No. 241, 280, and 308 have contributed $13,310, while the International Association of the system's sick and funeral benefits was adopted, as recommended by President Mahon at the last convention of the organization. The disaster there has come instead one of the greatest calamities ever experienced by the union's membership and their wives and little ones.

SUES UNITED MINE WORKERS.

Springfield, Ill., Sept. 13.—Officials of the Illinois United Mine Workers have begun preparations to defend a unique charge that the miners' organization is liable for damages to a employer against whom a strike was called. The bill of complaint in the county court, Miners employed by the Boyd Coal and Coke Company, of St. Clair County, Ill., were called out last April. That company now sues for damages because of the loss of business due to the strike and the fact that it has been unable to secure workmen to take the places of the strikers. The court is asked to enjoin the officers of the Miners' Union from further interference with the mine or from inducing the men to remain away from the mine.

CANNERIES PROSECUTED.

Bellingham, Wash., Sept. 12.—Following investigations made by State Labor Commissioner E. W. Olson and Mrs. Thomas McGrady representing the United Trial Welfare Commission of the State, information was filed in the Superior Court here in which separate cases against salmon cannery owners for violation of the child labor law by employing children under 14 years old without permits from the Juvenile Court. Every cannery in the county, with the exception Packing Company and the Lummi Bay Company, is represented in the prosecutions. The penalty for each conviction may be $10 or a maximum of $50, which makes it possible for the total in fines to reach $46,000.

STRIKE AGAINST MONOPOLY.

Wilkesbarre, Pa., Sept. 12.—Disputes over the quantity and quality of powder mined in the colliery of the Lehigh Valley Coal Company resulted in 500 men going on strike. This brings the total of men out on strike in this city up to 2,000. General Manager Chase, of the Lehigh Company, said that he objected to the powder because it was not up to the standard, as there was too much fine powder in the mixture. The powder offered a much lower rate than the company's, however, to the effect that his powder is inferior and not to cause trouble.

SETTLEMENT REACHED.

Cincinnati, Sept. 12.—Representatives of the Brotherhood of Railway Clerks and the officials of the Chesapeake and Ohio railroad succeeded in reaching an agreement, and there will be no strike of the clerks. The exact nature of the settlement is not known, but the statement was made by officers of the Brotherhood that the adjustment was entirely satisfactory to them. A strike vote had been taken and the men were prepared to cause work on receiving notification that an adjustment was not reached.

PASSED THE 400,000 MARK.

Indianapolis, Ind., Sept. 12.—Announcement has just been made by the Secretary of the United Mine Workers of the paid-up membership on August 31 was 409,153, the largest number in the history of the organization. In all mining sections of the United States and Canada a vigorous and aggressive campaign of organization has been carried on and large accessions are being made.

DEFEATED THE TOBACCO TRUST.

Washington, Sept. 12.—Macedonia is a great tobacco growing province, and some years ago huge syndicates took the trade in hand, with the usual money-getting results. This compelled both growers and workers to organize themselves, and several successful strikes occurred. Then wages had been forced up again to the extent of about 6 per cent, the capitalists decided to do something themselves. A great trust was formed, and set itself to reduce the workers to the old level of misery. Against this the trade union has undauntedly contended, and every organization, with the result that 60,000 members have joined. There were more strikes and fresh victories for the wages-earners. Finally, the capitalists resolved, if possible, to crush the union altogether, by means of a lockout. This began on August 1, 1913, only just before the outbreak of hostilities in the Balkans. Meetings were prohibited, and leaders arrested, but the spirit of opposition were everywhere. But for eleven months the men, splendidly led, held out, and at last the employers had to admit victory they deserved. The trust has capitulated, and the lockout has been withdrawn, trade unionism is to be recognized, and a great uplift has been given to the labor cause.

BARRED THE UNION LABEL.

Washington, Sept. 13.—Despite a vigorous fight waged on the floor of the convention, Representative George W. Fairchild, who opened their sixty-sixth Great Sun session in the New Willard Tuesday, repulsed the attempt of Labor Unions. Representative Frank C. Smith of Illinois, during the morning session, introduced a resolution asking that Labor Unions be barred from using in their advertisements that the union label of the order the allied trade unions' stamp. When Representative Smith introduced Great Incohonee Carl Fowler rather took charge of the proposal that the order did not engage in politics or in religion. An appeal was immediately made by Mr. Smith and the motion put to a vote. Excitement reigned in the hall as the vote was taken, but it was found that the "noes" had more votes to be denied. The representatives assembled in Great Incohonee, and the labor unions were at work. It was a large majority. As a result, the union label will not appear on any of the printing of the order.

WAITERS SUCCESSFUL STRIKE.

St. Louis, Sept. 12.—James H. McTague, head of the restaurant owner, against whom the waiters' strike was recently directed, recently signed an agreement with representatives of the "waiters', cooks', and bartenders' unions. The strike opened several months ago when the unions locked out the waiters, cooks, and replaced them with negroes imported from the South, to whom he gave contracts for a term of three months. The strike spread to all the other fashionable hotels and restaurants of the city, and finally the Imperial and Jefferson. McTague reopened his restaurant September 8 with only white waiters. Union wages and hours will prevail. Wages of $1 a week and will work ten hours a day, six days a week, in place of twelve hours a day, seven days a week.

FIXED MINIMUM WAGE.

Fort Worth, Tex., Sept. 12.—In connection with the agitation for the establishment of a law of a minimum wage for women and child workers, It is interesting to note that this city claims the distinction of having established the first agreement between employing merchants and the Retail Clerks' International Union. The retail clerks' union—recently one of the strongest in the country—has raised the minimum in his establishments to $9 per week, not even beginners being put to work at less than that rate.

ORGANIZE TEXTILE WORKERS.

Lodiow, Mass., Sept. 13.—John Golden, President of the United Textile Workers of America, and George W. Perkins, President of the Central Labor Union, have been hard at work for some time past to secure an organization of the textile workers in this city. As a result of their work a new organization of approximately 1,000 members has been formed and completed, composed of English, Scotch, Irish, and French textile workers. A similar organization previously existed here, but on account of the race prejudice which existed between the various nations they were defeated and compelled to return to work without any concessions being secured.

LAUNDRY WORKERS ON STRIKE.

Cincinnati, Sept. 12.—The strike of local laundry workers which was inaugurated last week, has been extended, and now includes in three laundries, took a serious aspect when the men and girls belonging to the union in the establishments went out. Others were called out. The union organizer claims that 1,800 employes are on strike out of a total of 4,000 employed in establishments owned by laundries in this city. A wage scale with a minimum of $7 a week for girls and $12 for men is asked by the unions.

PATTERNMAKERS' STRIKE.

London, Sept. 13.—Practically all the patternmakers in London, to the number of 2,000, are on strike for an increase in wage of £2 3s. a week. An official of the Amalgamated Society of Engineers says the men's demands will probably be conceded to London, and that, although a conference has been pending between the unions and the employers, the men would not go back until their demands were met in full.

TO SETTLE TEXTILE STRIKE.

Madrid, Spain, Sept. 13.—The decree promulgated by the Spanish government to settle the strike of textile workers at Barcelona has been rejected by the strikers. The sixty-hours' week is the chief provision, and heavy fines will be inflicted upon employers who continue to work longer hours. The money thus obtained will be paid into the men's sick funds. An emergency fund for the protection of the workers' rights has been formed, and members of all parties on the Left have joined it.